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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 17 February 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I wish to draw your attention to the statement made by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization on 16 February 2006. The meeting, which was headed by President Mahmoud Abbas, considered many important matters concerning issues on the national and international agenda of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian National Authority. Among the issues discussed, the Committee condemned the plans by the Government of Israel to isolate Al-Aghwar (the Jordan Valley) area from the rest of the West Bank and highlighted the dangerous implications such a plan has for the achievement of peace in the region.

In this regard, Israel, the occupying Power, has instituted a regime of permits and severe restrictions on the movement of Palestinians in the Jordan Valley. It seems apparent that Israel is attempting to annex this area by creating a situation in the Jordan Valley almost identical to that of the "seam zone" between the unlawful wall being built by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and the Green Line. In fact, this week, Israel, the occupying Power, has begun in earnest the construction of the "eastern wall" in the Jordan Valley which will completely enclose the West Bank within a de facto open-air prison.

The severe restrictions of movement imposed by the occupying Power prohibit some 2 million Palestinian residents of the West Bank from entering the Jordan Valley area, which constitutes around one third of the total area of the West Bank. This has resulted in the disenfranchisement and the disappearance of Palestinians from the Valley, with the exception of a few thousand who live there. Moreover, thousands of the Palestinian residents of the neighbouring towns and villages in the northern West Bank, some only a few kilometres away, are absent from the Valley, even though their families and friends reside there. Even more tragic, Palestinians who have farmland in the Valley or are employed in agriculture in the area have been robbed of their only means of livelihood.

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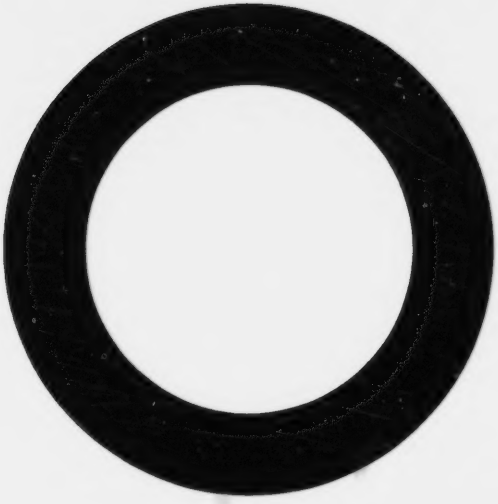
In this regard, the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization stated that such expansionist designs by Israel, including the continuation of settlement expansion in Occupied East Jerusalem and the building of its wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, are destroying any chance to achieve a just and permanent peace in the Middle East. The Committee further went on to state that "the Israeli plan transforms Palestinian land into isolated cantons, preventing the establishment of an independent Palestinian State". The Committee urged the Quartet, the authors of the "road map to peace", to assume its responsibilities towards the peace process and compel Israel to cease its expansion into the Jordan Valley, as well as all other actions working against the achievement of peace on the basis of the two-State solution.

It is also important to highlight that during the same meeting, the Executive Committee welcomed the free and fair elections of the Palestinian Legislative Council and congratulated the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, for their commitment to democracy. The Committee further indicated that the election results do not represent a departure from the positions and agreements signed by the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian National Authority. This includes international and various Arab summit resolutions, the provisions of international law, international conventions, United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 194 (III), and the political programme set out by the Palestine Liberation Organization, which includes the road map, the Arab initiative adopted in Beirut in 2002 and all the agreements signed with Israel. As such, in his statement before the first meeting of the new Palestinian Legislative Council, President Abbas is expected to underline the above-mentioned elements and state his expectation that all agreements will be fully respected and honoured by the new Cabinet.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations



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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 20 February 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I wish to draw your attention to the speech of President Mahmoud Abbas, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and President of the Palestinian National Authority, delivered at the opening session of the second Palestinian Legislative Council in Ramallah on 18 February 2006 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and the enclosed speech of President Mahmoud Abbas distributed as a document of the Security Council and of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

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Annex to the identical letters dated 20 February 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Speech of President Mahmoud Abbas ("Abu Mazen")
Chairman of the Executive Committee of the
Palestine Liberation Organization and
President of the Palestinian National Authority
at the
Opening of the Session of the
Second Legislative Council

Ramallah, 18 February 2006

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate
"And their affairs are conducted by consultation among them"
God has spoken the truth

Sisters and Brothers, Members of our second Legislative Council,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished Guests,

May peace and the mercy and blessings of God be upon you!

Today is a momentous day in the life of our Palestinian people, a day of great significance in the history of our nation. For today we witness the inauguration, in accordance with the Constitution, of our second Legislative Council, chosen by our people in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem in free and fair elections viewed by the entire world through the eyes of hundreds of observers and carried out peacefully from the start of the process to the announcement of the results.

Had any political organization or group been excluded or our compatriots in East Jerusalem prevented from participating, the elections could not have been held. I insisted on full participation in spite of all the pressures exerted, and ultimately that insistence won out. I see among you here some who represent Jerusalem and some who represent every Palestinian political group. Congratulations to our sisters and brothers members of the Council on the trust placed in them by the electorate and my best wishes for success in carrying out the responsibilities they have now shouldered.

On this occasion I would also like to pay tribute to the Central Elections Commission and express my appreciation to it for discharging its duty with the utmost competence and responsibility. I wish also to commend the observers, both

Arab and foreign, for their role in monitoring the elections, and here special mention should be made of President Jimmy Carter.

In successfully holding these legislative elections and the presidential and local elections that preceded them, our people have demonstrated their awareness and their maturity in conducting the democratic process. This is something the whole world should view as evidence that they deserve and are qualified to build their own present and future within the framework of the modern State to which they are entitled, under a pluralistic democratic system governed by the rule of law and the spirit and morality of the age in which we live, where every citizen, whether man or woman, enjoys the rights and liberties guaranteed by law.

Dear Sisters, Dear Brothers,

From the podium of your Council, I salute our Palestinian people both here at home and in the Diaspora. Let me reaffirm to every Palestinian man and woman that our joy will be complete only the day when we obtain our freedom; when our independent State, with Al-Quds al-Sharif as its capital, comes into being; when our prisoners are released; when the question of the refugees finds a just and mutually agreed solution based on General Assembly resolution 194 (III); the day when we realize the dream of the leader of our revolution, the builder of the first Palestinian National Authority, legendary President Yasser Arafat.

I also salute the members of your Council who are hidden behind the walls of Israeli prisons along with thousands of our people's heroic elite. I assure them that we will spare no effort until they are set free and I see every one of those members take his seat on this Council and every prisoner take his proper place in our society.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our election results have brought with them a new political reality in which the Hamas movement holds a majority in the Legislative Council. It is Hamas, therefore, that will have the task of forming the new Government. I look forward to the appointment of the person who is to undertake that task and the start of the customary consultations for that purpose. As part of that process, your Council will elect its Presidency Office and form its various committees so as to be ready to welcome the newly formed Government, its programme and its policy directions, until it obtains a vote of confidence.

We look forward to the orderly completion of all these steps in the shortest possible time, because the tasks before you in the coming period are enormous indeed. From me you will have full cooperation and encouragement, because the national interest is our first and final goal, beyond any individual or factional interest.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our first Legislative Council, which, operating under the most extreme conditions, managed to pass a large number of laws and followed and monitored in every way possible the work of the successive Governments. Indeed, tribute is due to the work of those Governments, too, which must be commended on all their initiatives and achievements. We hope that the new Government will continue and complete that work and move forward in the realization of the interests and aspirations of the people who elected them and who will keep a sharp eye on their performance both in Parliament and in the Government.

Sisters and Brothers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, before our second Legislative Council, I would like, as has been the custom in the past, to present to you, to our people and to the world at large a responsible, clear and candid review of the early stages of our national experience. That experience has been difficult and complicated, but is also replete with major achievements, realized by the Palestine Liberation Organization as leader of this people and the highest political authority for all its bodies and institutions. Our achievements over that lengthy period would not have been possible had it not been for the emphasis of the PLO on national unity, the use of the most effective means of struggle and the adoption of enlightened, well-thought-out policies dictated by the supreme national interest of the Palestinian people and founded on the resolutions constituting international legitimacy.

As a result, we thwarted the most serious plans aimed at annihilating the political identity and national rights of the Palestinian people. The PLO succeeded in taking our cause to every corner of the globe and to every people, until the doors of the United Nations opened for us. There, in that forum, Yasser Arafat stood and spoke on our behalf, holding up an olive branch and calling on the world not to let it drop.

Expressions of international and regional recognition of our people, our Organization and our rights poured in, creating a reserve of political support from which we continue to derive strength and an effective international presence. The same has been true when, together with our Arab and Muslim brothers and sisters, we have worked out practical political initiatives expressed in balanced decisions adopted by Arab and Islamic summits, placing the national rights of the Palestinian people at the heart of the issues facing the Arab and Islamic world and addressing the world in the language of the age. This has afforded us an indispensable moral and political shield at every stage of our national struggle and political movement.

The PLO provided leadership throughout that historical period, despite the fact that its leader, its supreme command, its cadres and its institutions were outside the homeland. It faced harsh battles in its fight to remain in existence, carry on its mission and uphold the rights of its people. The PLO and the Palestinian revolution could not have survived and overcome the many attempts to crush them had the PLO not undertaken, side by side with its unrelenting armed struggle, courageous political initiatives that imparted a qualitative impetus to the Palestinian cause, rallying enormous support both regionally and internationally. As a result, the PLO was recognized as the sole representative and the able and legitimate voice of the Palestinian people, and the mouthpiece for their national rights.

From this podium, which is a fundamental part of our National Council, I wish to emphasize the need to complete the dialogue among all forces, groups and factions so as to revitalize our organization, renew its structures and enhance its performance in all areas. We began that dialogue long ago. Now the time has come to reap the desired results.

In this context, Brothers and Sisters, let us look back to another important milestone in our triumphant national journey: our courageous, historic initiative at the 1988 session of the National Council in Algiers, namely the announcement of the establishment of a Palestinian State in exile and the Declaration of

Independence, which was tied to our recognition of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). This laid the foundations of the State we aspire to and defined its features and its content. It was a carefully thought-out initiative that raised the level of our recognition by the international community. This went hand in hand with the outbreak, in 1987, of the first popular intifadah, which contributed decisively to the adoption of our initiative. The world then began to deal with our people, our cause and our leadership as one State deals with another State. The Palestinian peace offensive at the time thus took on a political dimension that went beyond its being a unilateral declaration: it became an international commitment for all those who recognized it, establishing full relations with the Palestinian State on that basis.

The cumulative efforts made in that political struggle paid off, moreover, when a major disruption of the international balance of forces occurred as a result of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the outbreak of the second Gulf war and there emerged a need to work out new equations for stability in the region. Had Palestine not been present as a recognized State and as an organization embodying a strong representative political entity, the world, with its new forces, would have bypassed us: no one would have thought of us in the context of any regional or international arrangements. When the opportunity to demonstrate that presence was seized, the wheels of a new political process started to turn and there began an American-Palestinian dialogue that had been ruled out for decades. Next, the peace process was started in Madrid. We are all familiar with its different stages, the interactions it involved and how it unfolded. While this was taking place, secret channels were being plied side by side with the non-secret ones, giving rise to the Oslo Accord and mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO.

Many things were said about that Accord for the purpose of creating misgivings about it or obscuring its true nature with smoke and mirrors. In particular, it was said that the Oslo Accord had been concluded behind the backs of the Palestinian people because the negotiations had taken place completely in secret. Here let me repeat what I have pointed out on many occasions, namely that political activity behind closed doors is a well-known phenomenon in all or nearly all negotiations conducted between parties at odds. The results of the negotiations, however, are absolutely open and acquire their legitimacy from the need to submit them to the representative political bodies and obtain their approval. And that is just what happened when we presented the exact text of the Accord to the legislative and executive institutions, which discussed it, voted on it and ratified it.

Since that time, we have accepted and respected the right of any individual, group or political force to object to the Oslo Accord. But we have not accepted, and will not accept, having its legitimacy thrown into question, because the moment it was ratified, it became a political reality to which we are committed, and we will continue to uphold that commitment.

Measuring objectively the impact of the Oslo Accords, we must say that, while we did not view them as containing everything we wanted, they did lead to the establishment of the first Palestinian National Authority in parts of the national territory. They enabled tens of thousands of our people to return to their homeland from exile and the Diaspora. They resulted in the establishment of this Council, which Israel initially wanted to be an administrative council having no legislative, representative or political character. But we insisted on its being a structure closer in

nature to the parliament of a State. We imposed the holding of elections as t
method of choosing its members and developed its powers and responsibilities un
it became what it is in our Basic Law, which serves as a temporary Constituti
until, God willing, we ratify the permanent Constitution of our State of the future.

Although some consider the achievements realized at the start of t
implementation of the Oslo Accord as modest, due to the fact that in the early stag
Israeli withdrawal amounted to only 1 per cent, Israel subsequently withdrew fr
all our cities and the peace process was expected to result in the end of t
occupation of all Palestinian territory occupied in 1967 and the negotiated resoluti
of all permanent status issues in accordance with the same Oslo Accords.

Let me recall with you, Sisters and Brothers, how the extremist elements
Israel became furious, assassinating Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at a ti
when we had barely taken the first steps. The fact is that it was not simply a politic
assassination, but a deliberate attempt to halt a peace process that was movi
forward on track and replace it with a different approach, namely the denial of t
Palestinian partner and the imposition of unilateral solutions based on the logic
brute force and the creation of a de facto situation by force of arms, while goi
forward with settlement expansion.

Subsequent Israeli policies revolved around a programme and measur
intended to nullify the Oslo Accord, thus bringing the peace process to a standsti
opening the way for extremism and tearing down every effort that had been ma
towards creating a new climate between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. All th
served to usher in the era of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who declared an op
battle against the Palestinian people, with systematic destruction of the structur
and institutions of the Palestinian Authority.

Sharon built the racist separation wall, redoubled settlement operations in t
West Bank, tightened the iron grip on the Palestinian people and the siege impos
on them everywhere and even beleaguered their President, until death overtook hi

Here I would like to emphasize that, together with our friends all over t
world, we are following up on the causes of the death of our historic leader, the la
President Yasser Arafat. The case is still open and will remain open until all t
facts concerning the death of Abu Amar are brought to light.

Sisters and Brothers,

The Israeli Government has adopted a policy of unilateralism rather th
negotiation. Let me remind you that when Prime Minister Sharon proceeded wi
the plan to withdraw unilaterally from the Gaza Strip, it was viewed by us as
surgical procedure aimed at scrapping the road map. We had agreed to the road m
as an international initiative that included both mutual Palestinian-Israe
commitments regarding security and Israeli commitments relating to the freezing
settlement activity and to military withdrawal. It provided for the holding of
international conference and a return to the negotiating table to resolve all th
permanent status issues, namely: refugees, Jerusalem, settlements, borders an
water. Finally, it was to lead to the end of the occupation, the creation of th
Palestinian State we aspire to and the establishment of a just and lasting peace.

I would like to note for the record an objective reality regarding developmen
since the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin: namely, that Israe

extremism has succeeded in plunging us into a bloody cycle of action and reaction, creating a climate in which it is hardly possible for a political approach and negotiations to prevail in the conduct of the struggle.

Over against this, we cannot ignore the earnest attempts made, including at high levels, to halt the deterioration of the entire peace process, such as the Sharm al-Sheikh summits, the Camp David summit and, most recently, the road map and the vision of American President George Bush founded on the establishment of an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with the State of Israel. This is, without a shadow of a doubt, a historic development in the stance of the United States of America.

Within this context, and based on our understanding of the highest interests of our Palestinian people, a truce was reached, providing an unprecedented period of calm that lasted no less than three months. This was followed last year by another period of calm that we are earnestly striving together to consolidate in order to create a suitable climate for resuming the peace process and returning to the negotiating table on the basis of international legitimacy and the agreements signed.

Sisters and Brothers, Members of the Council,

There is much talk, of a somewhat vituperative nature, about the Authority's inflated administrative apparatus and its high financial cost. But-can we ignore the fact that over the years of the intifadah, Israeli aggression left devastating scars, both economic and administrative, on our domestic situation? The ranks of the unemployed were joined by tens of thousands of workers denied entry to Israel, while private capital invested in the Palestinian territory shrunk. The various economic institutions and sectors suffered destruction and losses as a consequence of the policy of collective punishment, closures, checkpoints, destruction of infrastructure, uprooting of trees and a myriad of other measures that turned the life of the Palestinian people into a living hell.

As a result of these circumstances, the Palestinian National Authority alone assumed all those burdens, shouldering responsibility for solving problems to which, once they started, no end was in sight. Foremost among these problems is the task of absorbing the hordes of unemployed persons, especially university students, who graduate in the thousands every year but find no employment opportunities, owing to the weakness of the private sector and its low capacity for absorbing them. Consequently, the Authority, like it or not, has turned into the largest employer, with the inevitable result of a bloated civil service and overstaffed ministries and institutions.

As you all know, this situation has sorely overburdened the public budget and further increased our enormous reliance on international support. Thus, meeting the salary and current-expenditure needs of the public sector has come to require, on the part of any Government, constant efforts to activate our international relations and secure support from our Arab brothers and sisters and other friends around the world.

While mistakes, excesses and violations may have occurred, we must not forget the achievements realized, such as institution-building and reconstruction in various areas, especially education and health. Previous Governments, under the guidance and supervision of the Legislative Assembly, embarked on a comprehensive reform process aimed at correcting the exceptional situation

financially by streamlining the public sector and reducing the strain on the
Despite the challenges this process faces — first and foremost Israel's co
oppressive measures and the resulting deterioration of the economic situa
appreciable progress has been achieved, and it will be the task of t
Government, as a matter of national responsibility, to move forward with tha

Sisters and Brothers,

In my capacity as elected President of the National Authority and Chai
the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and base
platform on which I was elected, I wish to stress the following:

First of all, both I as President, and our Government, will remain comm
negotiation as the only realistic strategic political choice for reaping the fruit
people's unremitting struggle and sacrifice over many decades. Cor
negotiations earnestly and judiciously will afford us practical opportun
achieve our legitimate national goals, supported by unmistakably clear inter
resolutions regarding our cause and our rights.

But while adopting negotiation as a political choice, we must also con
intensify and develop forms of peaceful popular resistance. We must con
revitalize and strengthen the Palestine Liberation Organization in its capacit
sole legitimate representative of our people which takes the lead on all
affecting its fate, including negotiations with the Israelis.

Secondly, Israel's suspension of negotiations in favour of an iron-fist
unilateral adventurism, continued construction of the separation wall, se
expansion and the politics of assassination will lead only to greater deteriora
put peace and stability further out of reach. If there is anyone who thinks th
kinds of policies will force us to raise the white flag of surrender he is in
things and ignoring the reality of this people's faith, strength and resolv
pursuit of its full and unadulterated rights. I reiterate our absolute reje
unilateralism, and appeal to a world that yearns to see peace and stabilit
Middle East, and in particular to the Quartet and the American administra
begin immediate and earnest efforts to put the negotiation process back on
based on international legitimacy, President Bush's vision, the Arab peace in
and signed agreements and understandings from Oslo to the road map.

Thirdly, the internal change brought about by Hamas winning a maj
seats in the second legislative election should not be used as an excuse for in
aggression against our people, or as a pretext for blackmail. The Palestinian
should not be punished for a democratic choice made through the ballot b
people's leadership, and I personally, reject this blackmail and call on all p
desist from it.

Fourthly, reform of the National Authority must not end. I will con
oversee all reform initiatives, both those already being carried out by the j
in implementation of decisions on our part and any new initiatives that ma
up. I am resolved to carry through the programme that our people entrusted
and on the basis of which I was elected, to act on the aspiration I espo
creating a unitary, stable, strong and effective Authority that provides secu
safety to all its citizens and has the capacity to fulfil its commitments and
the interests of its people. An Authority that respects the law and is comm
enforcing it. An Authority whose institutions abide by the principle of separ

powers, with a strong judiciary in particular. An Authority that applies a single law to all, with a unitary legislative authority and political pluralism. An Authority that lays solid groundwork for the birth of our future independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital. We dream of one day seeing this State as a positive addition to existing States in the region, carrying out its commitments ably and credibly and enjoying its rights on the basis of justice. We want no more and no less than what international legitimacy entitles us to.

We conducted free and fair elections and we expect to see a Government that faces up to challenges and performs its functions capably. And as I speak of our future Government, I remind the members of the Council — and the members of the incoming Government — that it is absolutely imperative to honour all signed commitments and to act in the national interest by putting an end to the chaos of arms. Now that all are fully included in the National Authority's institutional structure, all must commit unconditionally to the existence of a single weapon: the weapon of legitimacy.

Fifthly, in the light of the foregoing I reaffirm something that has long served as the armour of our revolution, Organization, and Authority: the fact that we do not allow our positions and policies to become caught up in any kind of axis politics. We take pride in the depth of our Arab and Islamic identities and our unifying role within them. And we also take pride in the fact that all support our rights and the justness of our cause while respecting our independent national will.

Sisters and Brothers,

Allow me to touch on one of the most important aspects of our experience in the National Authority: security.

Over the past 10 years security has emerged as an overarching crucial dimension of our national project. The way we handle it will determine the future of this experiment, this project of ours.

Security means safeguarding both the individual citizen and society as a whole. It means safeguarding all aspects of life. It means safeguarding all who dwell among us in our land. Security means carrying out our commitments. We all share the grave responsibility of confronting the chaos that afflicts some of our cities in the form of robbery, assault and the kidnapping of foreigners and our own brothers, all of whom have come to live in our land to support us and cooperate with us.

I shall not permit — and the Government must not permit — this despicable phenomenon to continue. Stern and effective measures must be taken to put an end to it once and for all. No one should be allowed to abuse the highest ideals to commit base crimes against the life and property of citizens or against visitors or diplomatic missions.

Security demands that we take care to endow the security apparatus with the capacity to perform its function. This includes equipment and training. Both the Israelis and the Quartet must facilitate the flow of arms and equipment to the security forces. Restructuring must continue, in accordance with the Basic Law. In this regard, we shall work earnestly and decisively to revitalize the National Security Council so that it can perform its role of formulating security policies and directing the work of the security services.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Brothers, Sisters, Members of the Council,

The tasks and burdens are many. The education sector is in need o development, including the building of schools, academies and universities of keeping pace with social and scientific progress. Modern education ba development, openness and the spirit of free inquiry as opposed to mindedness and chauvinism is the optimal tool for rearing new generatio healthy atmosphere conducive to development, modernization and progress society and people. There are also the health, economic, industrial, agric commercial, cultural, athletic, tourist and environmental sectors, all of require us to build on what we started and move towards a free and prog society and a new Palestinian brimming with hope for the future. We must our disabled and injured brothers and sisters, for the families of our mart prisoners, for the armies of unemployed youth and for the families of the po us not forget that a high proportion of our people live below the poverty line.

The building of a State and society that deserve to be called mode progressive requires that we preserve the gains made by women in Pale society and prevent any diminution in their role. Palestinian women have st and stood fast alongside the men on the soil of their homeland. They have a equality when it comes to martyrdom and prison. If they are going to have e in duties, they deserve equality in rights. We salute Palestinian women.

Another subject I would like to focus on has to do with our Pale people's national social fabric. The Muslims and Christians of Palestine ar citizens before the law. I would like to stress the importance of protecting pub personal freedoms in accordance with the law. They must not be infringed un pretext whatsoever. This includes freedom of expression, freedom of associat all the other freedoms, including the freedom of institutions of civil society. committed to securing, protecting and maintaining all Christian and Musli places. We will not allow ignorant splinter groups to fan the flames of sectar Palestine is the cradle of the revealed religions, the land of the Prophet' journey and ascent to heaven, the land of Al-Aqsa and also the land of the N and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

This brings us, my brothers, to the subject of Jerusalem, the beating h Palestine. I hereby affirm before you and before all the world — and ab before the Israelis — that the measures that have been taken to isolate the c drive out its citizens in a kind of ethnic cleansing of Christian and M Palestinians designed to Judaize it — these and other Israeli measur contravene international law will never achieve legitimacy of any kind, a never be accepted as a fait accompli by a single Palestinian citizen. Co Israeli obstinacy on the future of Jerusalem stands in the way of the goal to we all aspire, which is a just peace between the States of Palestine and Israel.

I am aware, as are you, of the enormity of the danger threatening the Jerusalem and its inhabitants. I appeal to the Arab and Islamic worlds, and Christian world as well, to lend a helping hand to our people in Jerusale provide them with the means to stand firm and remain there. For our part w spare no effort to create conditions to ensure the survival of our people in Jeru

Sisters and Brothers,

On behalf of you all I send greetings, thanks and appreciation to our brothers in the Arab States, our brothers in the Islamic world and friendly peoples and Governments everywhere for their support and assistance to the Palestinian people.

I also turn to our Israeli neighbours, as they embark on parliamentary elections, to reiterate to them that the road to security passes through a just peace. We are convinced that there is no military solution to this conflict and that negotiation between us as equal partners is the way to bring the cycle of violence to a long overdue end.

I say to you in all frankness that continued occupation and settlement, including most recently the settlement offensive to isolate the Jordan valley from the rest of Palestinian territory in the West Bank, as well as the checkpoints, the indiscriminate killing, the construction of the wall, the arrests — all these things will lead only to hatred, despair and perpetuation of the conflict.

Let us make peace together sooner rather than later. Let us live in two States side by side. Let us raise our children in a culture of life, not death. Let us teach them that a free man is one who defends the freedom of another, and that a man who loves God is one who loves his fellow man.

I would particularly like to stress that the age of unilateral solutions is over. Any attempt to map out the future of our people in isolated cantons, tear the West Bank into pieces, take over the Jordan valley, isolate Jerusalem or consolidate the settlement blocs will close the door to a solution between us. There is a Palestinian partner ready to sit with an Israeli partner at the negotiating table to reach a solution based on internationally recognized resolutions, the Arab peace initiative and the road map, based on respect for all prior agreements and commitments.

We desire a just solution that guarantees peace, not a partial, unilateral or temporary solution or a State with temporary borders that would ruin the chances for peace. We are waiting for the Israeli Government to make up its mind and take a decision on this matter. Our decision is complete readiness to begin final status negotiations immediately.

I reaffirm to the entire world that we believe that right is greater than might. We hold fast with equal resolve to our rights and to our desire for peace. The entire world must shoulder its responsibility to make the dream a reality: Peace in the Holy Land. Peace in the land of peace.

May God grant you success.

May peace be upon you and the mercy and blessings of God.

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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 20 February 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Yesterday, 19 February 2006, the cabinet of Ehud Olmert, acting prime minister of Israel, adopted the unilateral measure of freezing the transfer of funds belonging to the Palestinian people held hostage to its 38-year old occupation. These funds, amounting to 50 million United States dollars, are collected by Israel, the occupying Power, in customs and tax receipts on behalf of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) under an economic protocol signed between the two sides in 1994 in Paris. This dangerous decision by the Israeli Government came about a day after the swearing in of a new Palestinian parliament, which the Palestinian people proudly elected in a free and fair democratic election on 25 January 2006.

The unilateral decision taken by the Israeli Government to withhold money belonging to the PNA is not only condemnable but will have devastating consequences throughout the region. The Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, already suffer from a dire humanitarian situation as a result of Israel's illegal measures and actions, including the severest restrictions of movement, and they must not be further alienated, oppressed and punished for merely demonstrating their commitment to democracy. President Mahmoud Abbas stressed in a press conference held in Ramallah yesterday, the PNA's rejection of unilateral solutions asserting that the Israeli Government and the entire world "should respect the democratic choice of the Palestinian people, who should not be punished for this".

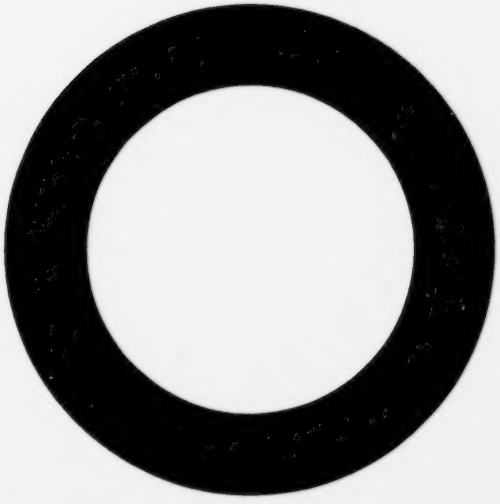
Reprimanding the Palestinian people for having exercised their democratic rights in exactly the manner the international community had called upon them to do will only deliver a contradictory message and have negative consequences on the promotion and establishment of democratic ideals and principles in the region. It must be stated that the will of the Palestinian people can never be broken and they will never succumb to the forces of oppression, violence, cruelty and injustice.

06-24965 (E) 240206

The Palestinian leadership calls on the international community, including the Quartet, and in particular the United Nations, to exert maximum pressure on Israel, the occupying Power, to rescind its decision to withhold funds that belong to the PNA. The occupying Power must not be allowed to go against the will of the international community and punish the Palestinian people for exercising their democratic right to elect their representatives. We express our strongest hopes that the necessary measures will be taken in this regard.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council and the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations



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Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 21 February 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, has been intensifying its military campaign against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. This has included, in particular, an escalation of military raids and attacks, resulting in the killing of Palestinians, including extrajudicial killings, and inflicting injury on many other innocent Palestinian civilians. The continuation by Israel, the occupying Power, of its illegal policies and practices against the Palestinian people under its occupation continues to seriously undermine efforts aimed at calming the situation on the ground.

Over the past week, Israeli occupying forces have killed at least nine Palestinian civilians. On Sunday, 19 February 2006, Israeli occupying forces killed two Palestinians in the densely populated Gaza Strip. Israeli helicopter gunships fired missiles at a car transporting Bilal Hamada Al Najar, 18 years old, from Khazza'a town near Khan Younis, and Usama Fawzi Breiss, from the Rafah refugee camp, in the southern part of the Gaza Strip. The bodies of the deceased were severely mutilated. In addition, at least four bystanders were wounded as a result of the assault.

Also on Sunday, Israeli occupying forces carried out a large-scale raid in the Balata refugee camp near the West Bank town of Nablus. The raid included around 50 armoured jeeps, bulldozers and helicopter gunships. As a result, Ibrahim Al-Sheikh Ali and Mohammad Natour, both 17 years old, were killed by live ammunition by Israeli occupying forces. At least 12 other Palestinians were also injured, several of them critically.

The continuation of aggression committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people, in particular the killing of the two Palestinian youths mentioned above, should be condemned by the international community. Israel, the occupying Power, will only continue to commit its systematic human rights violations as long as it continues to believe it can act against the Palestinian people

06-24959 (E) 230206

under its occupation with impunity. The international community must continue to act to bring an end to all Israeli actions against the Palestinian people and ensure Israel's compliance with international law and with its obligations as an occupying Power.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 231 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 7 February 2006 (A/ES-10/317-S/2006/83) constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my profound regret to inform you that, since our letter to you dated 7 February 2006, at least 16 more Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, including 5 Palestinians under the age of 18, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 3,790. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council and the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 21 February 206 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Wednesday, 8 February, to Monday, 20 February 2006)

Wednesday, 8 February 2006

1. Murad Abdelhamid Al-Hoor
2. Idriss Zakariya Al-Sharif

Thursday, 9 February 2006

1. Marwane Ahmad Ammar
2. Mohammad Riyad Ramadan
3. Tarek Ishake Abu-Harbeed

Friday, 10 February 2006

1. Youssef Hilal Badha
2. Ahmed Hilal Badha

Monday, 13 February 2006

Nayfa Mohamad Abu Mossaid

Wednesday, 15 February 2006

1. Mojahid Amin Samara (15 years old)
2. Amal Hamad Al-Birawi

Friday, 17 February 2006

Mohammad Kamel Al-Attawna (17 years old)

Sunday, 19 February 2006

1. Bilal Hamada Al-Najar (18 years old)
2. Usama Fawzi Breiss
3. Ibrahim Al-Sheikh Ali (17 years old)
4. Mohammad Natour (17 years old)

Monday, 20 February 2006

Ahmad Mohammad Nayef Abu Charakh

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* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 3,790.

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 24 February 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

It has been three days since our last communication on 21 February 2006, in which we conveyed our deep concern regarding the marked escalation of military aggression by Israel, the Occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Unfortunately, the situation since that communication has seen further deterioration, threatening a comprehensive breakdown on the ground and on all levels. The past week has seen an increase in aggressive Israeli rhetoric, threats and actions against the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority as the contending Israeli parties compete against one another for the upcoming elections on a platform of violence and aggression against the Palestinian people and their rights. Sadly, Palestinian blood has become a ticket in the upcoming Israeli elections and tragic events on the ground indicate that the situation will only get worse if the international community does not intervene promptly and firmly.

Israel, the Occupying Power, has escalated the situation on the ground by intensifying its military incursions into Palestinian towns in which cruel and inhumane measures have been taken against the affected Palestinian populations, including the targeting of civilians, medical staff and the injured. In the past week alone, Israeli occupation forces have carried out two separate and very violent military incursions into the Balata refugee camp, near Nablus City in the West Bank. So far, at least nine Palestinians have been killed in these military assaults while 70 others, including three medical staff, were injured. Numerous international and human rights organizations, including Doctors without Borders, have condemned the marked increase in violence against civilians, especially the targeting of medical staff and the injured and the obstruction of access to them. They have been horrified at the cruelty with which Israeli occupation forces have dealt with the civilian population in the Balata refugee camp, namely sealing off the camp even to ambulances, demolishing homes without prior warning and killing residents at random. The campaign against that refugee camp began earlier this month and as

06-25379 (E) 270206

our most recent correspondence indicated, two Palestinians were killed in an incursion there.

Additionally, with the resumption with marked intensity of its unlawful campaign of extrajudicial executions of Palestinians, former influential Israeli senior security officials have suggested that even the newly elected Palestinian officials would not be immune from this unlawful policy. Threats of catastrophic implications have also been officially declared against the population in the Gaza Strip, with Israeli officials declaring that they could cut off the electricity supply in the Gaza Strip, reoccupy the northern Gaza Strip and expel its residents. The events in the Gaza Strip have also seen a marked escalation in violence as the Israeli bombardment of Palestinian neighbourhoods continues incessantly and Palestinians continue to suffer from these attacks and random firing by occupation soldiers near the borders. On 23 February 2006, Israeli occupation forces killed three Palestinians and injured another in the Gaza Strip in separate incidents, in addition to firing a missile at a car in an apparent failed extrajudicial execution attempt. Towns around Hebron and Nablus cities in the West Bank have been especially targeted in the past week, with Israeli occupation forces arresting at least eight and injuring a dozen Palestinians in separate incursions and house searches.

President Mahmoud Abbas, despite the apparent disinterest of the Israeli side in restoring calm, has once more reiterated the Palestinian commitment to a peaceful settlement of the conflict and has called on Israel, the Occupying Power to cease its military aggression and return immediately to the negotiating table. Unfortunately, these sincere Palestinian calls have so far been met with utter disdain, which intensifies as the election date in Israel approaches.

President Abbas has also appealed to the international community and the Quartet to intervene immediately and put an end to the grave escalation on the ground as the situation has become unbearable and critically dangerous. Such irresponsibility in the Israeli actions and such determination to drive the situation to a complete breakdown clearly demonstrates the urgent need to provide the Palestinian people with international protection from this violent and belligerent Israeli military occupation. Furthermore, it is of crucial importance for the international community to now confront this belligerent Israeli policy and unlawful actions with a firm and collective position. It must be made clear that Palestinian lives, international law and international humanitarian law are not expendable chips that the Occupying Power can discard at will.

The international community, in accordance with the rules and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law, has clear responsibilities in terms of ensuring the proper conduct of the Occupying Power, including compliance with its legal obligations and commitments. Moreover, measures must be taken to prevent the further escalation of this Israeli military campaign against the Palestinian civilian population that remains helpless and without any protection from the brute force of the Occupying Power. The continuation and intensification of Israel's military campaign against the Palestinian people will clearly lead only to more bloodshed and to more suffering by innocent civilians on both sides, which should be avoided at all costs.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 232 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-

S/2000/921) to 21 February 2006 (A/ES-10/321-S/2006/123) constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in a follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my profound regret to inform you that, since our last letter to you, at least seven more Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 3,797. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council and the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 24 February 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Thursday, 23 February to Friday, 24 February 2006)

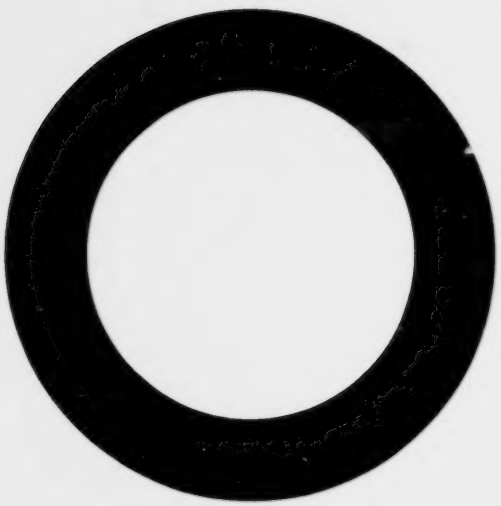
Thursday, 23 February 2006

1. Mohammed Shteiwi
2. Mohammad Khamees Ammar
3. Hassan Fathi Hajjaj (20 years old)
4. Ibrahim Mouhsen Al Seidi (19 years old)
5. Na'im Mohammad Abu Saris

Friday, 24 February 2006

1. Soulayman Hassan Al-Hamidi
2. Mohamad Ahmad Doukhan (21 years old)

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 3,797.



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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Identical letters dated 6 March 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, has been increasing its military aggression and its human rights violations against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. This has included the continuation by the occupying Power of its campaign of extrajudicial executions, in flagrant violation of international law, including humanitarian law. The intensification by Israel, the occupying Power, of its illegal actions against the Palestinian people living under its brutal occupation have not only led to the needless deaths of innocent civilians, but have also resulted in the deterioration of the already grave socio-economic conditions and humanitarian hardships being faced by the Palestinian people.

Today, Monday, 6 March 2006, Israel, the occupying Power, killed five Palestinians, including three children, in an extrajudicial execution attack. Israeli occupying forces fired missiles from a helicopter gunship on a car travelling on the crowded street of Salah El-Din in the Gaza Strip. The car was set on fire and debris from the vehicle covered the entire area. The two passengers, Moneer Sokkar and Ashraf Ahallof, died instantly from their wounds and the three bystanders killed were children. In this regard, two brothers, Raed Al-Batsh, age 8, and Mahmoud Al-Batsh, age 15, as well as Ahmed Al-Sousi, age 16, were killed while standing close to the car when the attack occurred. In addition, at least 13 Palestinian civilians, including the parents of the brothers mentioned above, were severely wounded as a result of Israel's military attack. The attack also cut off the electricity, damaged several vehicles parked in the area and shattered windows in the surrounding apartments, causing panic and fear to spread among the residents. In a statement released today, President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the continued policy of extrajudicial executions by Israel, the occupying Power, and warned that such actions are a "dangerous escalation" against the Palestinian people and against the peace process.

06-26164 (E) 080306

The international community, in accordance with the rules and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law, should call for the immediate cessation of these violent attacks and condemn this latest escalation of military aggression by Israel, the occupying Power, against the civilian Palestinian population. Furthermore, the international community should call on Israel to scrupulously comply with its obligations as an occupying Power in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

I would also like to draw your attention to the grave and revealing statement made today, 6 March 2006, by the acting Prime Minister of Israel, Ehud Olmert. In this connection, Mr. Olmert declared the Israeli Government's intention to unilaterally "determine its final borders by itself". Such declarations constitute not only a blatant violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions, but the internationally endorsed road map as well. In the statement delivered today by President Abbas, he reiterated that "security would come only through negotiations, not unilateral action and aggression". We call on the international community to reject such a position by the occupying Power and to urgently address this matter for the chance of salvaging the hopes for peace.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 233 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 24 February 2006 (A/ES-10/322-S/2006/127), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my profound regret to inform you that, since our last letter to you, at least five more Palestinians, including three children, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of martyrs killed since September 2000 to 3,786.[1] (The names of the martyrs that have been identified are listed in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council and the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

[1] Please note the error that was made to the total number of martyrs in our letter dated 24 February 2006.

Annex to the identical letters dated 6 March 2006 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*

Monday, 6 March 2006

1. Moneer Sokkar
2. Ashraf Ahallof
3. Raed Al-Batsh (8 years old)
4. Mahmoud Al-Batsh (15 years old)
5. Ahmed Al-Sousi (16 years old)

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 3,786.